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SECRET

19 January 1956

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Blanket Waivers

REFERENCE: IG Survey of the Office of the Comptroller, 20 October 1954, (IG/103026)

1. Problem

The Inspector General, after surveying the Office of the Comptroller, recommended the appointment of a joint committee by the DD/P and DD/S, to study the problems of projects given blanket waivers and to make appropriate recommendations to the Director.

25X1X4

This is the Committee's unanimous report.

[redacted]

3. Discussion

The support components of the Agency are responsible to the Director for ensuring proper fiscal and other administrative controls. They are also responsible, as their designation implies, for supporting operational activity through providing "know-how" in specialized fields within their competence.

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The general tenor of the Regulations is to provide for participation by support elements in the development and administration of the usual project. Such participation in the overwhelming majority of unusual projects is assured by the existence of PAPS. In the very rare case (for 1954, ☐ of all projects) the magnitude or sensitivity of the project makes the Administrative Plan procedure unsuitable. 25X1X4

Absence of any participation by support elements, however, not only precludes these elements from exercising their responsibilities in ensuring necessary controls, but (and in the long run this is probably more important) deprives operational components of the expertise that the support elements could provide.

4. Conclusions

There are and always will be a small number of projects which, because of their magnitude or sensitivity, defy any attempt at cataloguing for purposes of applying any standard procedures. Neither new regulations nor new standardized staffing channels can provide a solution. Activities which are gut scenario must be handled as circumstances dictate.

The Director has the unquestioned legal authority to act as his mission may require.

The very magnitude or sensitivity of these unusual projects, however, makes them especially productive of the possibility of difficulty or embarrassment. More than the "ordinary" project, they must be supported with all the intellectual and experiential resources available to the Agency.

The Inspector General's recommendations (Annex A), although basically sound, may not be applicable to every project, and it is impracticable and unwise to attempt to force these few highly unusual projects into a mold. These recommendations also stress controls with (in our view) insufficient emphasis upon the assistance that support elements can render.

5. Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Director require as a condition precedent to his consideration of any request for a blanket waiver, that the DD/S have been personally briefed on the project concerned and given an opportunity to submit to the Director suggestions as to any contributions that the support elements might be able to render.

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The Committee recommends that the Director consider the Inspector General's recommendations, for application where appropriate, but that neither they nor any other set of "standard procedures" be applied routinely to projects for which blanket waivers are sought.

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